

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 201501Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6289

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1822

"LONDON PLS POUCH TO BELFAST"

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EI, UK (NI)

SUBJECT: TRUCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRA

1. DURING CALL ON AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 20, PADDY DEVLIN (SDLP) TOLD US THAT HE HELPED INSTIGATE CURRENT TRUCE TALKS WITH PROVE IRA. HE HAS CONSIDERABLE HOPE THAT TRUCE WILL BE CALLED AND WILL BE EXTENDED LONG ENOUGH SO THAT BRITISH CAN RELEASE INTERNEES WITHOUT LOWING FACE. THIS, IN TRUN, COULD CREATE CONDITIONS FOR AN EXTENDED CEASE-FIRE. DEVLIN IS STILL WORRIED, HOWEVER, ABOUT PROVO DEMANDS FOR A BRITISH "DECLARATION OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW" PERMANENTLY FROM NI. THIS, HE SAYS, COULD BE A CRUNCH, AS BRITISH CANNOT CONCEDE THAT MUCH WITHOUT DANGEROUS REACTION FROM PROTESTANTS. DEVLIN DOES SEE REASON TO HOPE THAT BRITISH WILL ABANDON INTERNMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN A POLITICAL LIABILITY TO THEM.

2. DEVLIN CLAIMS THAT HE GOT TALKS STARTED BY GIVING COMPROMISE PEACE PROPOSAL TO COOPER, DEPUTY OF NI SECSTATE REES. DEVLIN ALSO TALKED TO DESMOND BOAL ON PROTESTANT SIDE, WHO LEAKED THE TERMS TO IAN PAISLEY (WHICH DOES NOT WORRY DEVLIN). NOT CLEAR FROM DEVLIN'S ACCOUNT WHEN PROTESTANT CHURCHMEN GOT INVOLVED AS MEDIATORS. DEVLIN SAYS HE STARTED WITH COOPER INSTEAD OF REES BECAUSE THE LATTER HAD TURNED OUT TO BE A "DISASTER" WHO
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COULD NOT COPE WITH SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS.

3. DEVLIN ASKED THAT WE PROTECT INFO ON SDLP INVOLVEMENT IN TRUCE TALKS. PROVOS WOULD NOT LIKE IT.

4. COMMENT: ABOVE IS ONLY PART OF THE STORY, NO DOUBT, BUT NEWS OF SDLP INVOLVEMENT--AND CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM--IS WELCOME. MOORE

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